SUPERFUND

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# ARCS contractors to take over FIT contract work

EPA has decided to give field investigation team (FIT) work to alternate remedial contract strategy (ARCS) contractors for the 1992-94 fiscal years.

The action is part of the agency's long-term contracting strategy to establish combined field investigation team/technical assistance team (FIT/TAT) contracts by 1995.

FIT contracts, which account for $30 million to $40 million of work, expire late next year. ARCS contractors will pick up the work until 1995 when TAT contracts will be up for renewal and revision.

The ultimate goal is to combine FIT and TAT contractors into single, regionally managed units.

ARCS do remedial investigations and feasibility studies (RI/FS). FITs do preliminary assessments and site inspections to see whether sites qualify for the National Priorities List. The work is similar to RI/FS work but is less extensive.

Several years ago, EPA combined the FIT contracts with predecessors to the ARCs, the Remedial Engineering Management (REM) contracts. But in 1986, the REMs and FITs were separated.

That was partly due to the unwieldy nature of the combined arrangement. While REMs worked on a site-by-site basis, the FITs have been dedicated teams on call. That wasn't a good match, EPA decided.

More recently, as the REM contracts expired, ARCS were established to replace them.

While the move to combine ARCS and FITs may seem like a step backward, EPA says the volume of work no longer justifies having separate FIT contracts and the arrangement will be suitable until the FITs can join the TATs.

EPA had a big backlog of sites that needed preliminary assessments in 1986. EPA decided that dedicated teams were needed and could be kept busy, so independent FITs were put in place.

The work has fallen off, so there is no longer a need to keep dedicated FITs, EPA says.

In five years, EPA plans to have dedicated FIT/TATs. FITs support emergency removal programs. EPA needs dedicated teams for this work because the agency never

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## Inside:



## $100 million ground water remedy set for Stringfellow site in Calif.

It's time to train the major artillery on the Stringfellow Superfund site, EPA says.

So the agency proposes to marshal all pumping forces to combat the spreading plume of contamination beneath the floor of Pyrite Canyon and the adjacent Glen Avon, Calif., community.

This time EPA plans to sink 18-36 extraction wells to "dewater" the site with pumping over a 20- to 50-year period. Construction cost is estimated at $64 million, with $36 million for operations.

The record of decision signed Oct 12 also calls for tests of soil vapor extraction system that EPA hopes will remove volatile organic compounds from the soil. If the tests are successful, the remedy would be used to clean up the soil in a fifth operable unit for the site. The local Concerned Neighbors in Action and Environ Corp., the group's consultant, has pushed for the vacuum extraction *(Superfund 3/27/89).*

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## Vitrification set for first Superfund use at GE Spokane site Jan. 15

The first full-scale *in situ* vitrification remedy at a Superfund site is scheduled for Jan. 15 at the General Electric Co.-Spokane Apparatus Superfund site in Spokane, Wash.

Geosafe Corp. of Kirkland, Wash., which has the patent on the process, has scheduled a Jan. 15 melt of 2,125 cubic yards of PCB soil at the Spokane site. The company will use the remedy as a test to obtain a permit to vitrify PCB soils on a full-scale basis at other sites under the Toxic Substances Control Act, which regulates PCB treatment. Geosafe says it has performed successful treatability studies at several other sites.

The remedy/test will consist of five melts of 425 cubic yards per setting.

PCB-contaminated soil and gravel was dug up and stockpiled following demolition of a building and removal of underground tanks at the site of a service shop where electrical transformers were repaired. The resulting trench is 19 feet deep. The stockpiled soil will be backfilled into the trench next week.

GE is paying for the remedy, and the Washington Ecology Dept. is overseeing the work at the Superfund site. An undetermined quantity of contamination remains deeply buried under a dry well on the site, and will be dealt with later.

Geosafe will do the Spokane remedy under prime contractor Bechtel Environmental of San Francisco. The

*(Continued on page 2)*

# Vitrification set for first Superfund remedy...(From page 1)

review of the vitrification results at EPA headquarters will take about a month after the melts.

If successful, the Parsons Chemical/ETM site in Grand Ledge, Mich., is in line to be the second Superfund site to use the remedy.

The Parsons remedy is set to begin March 25 in accordance with an agreement Geosafe signed with EPA. Electrodes to super-heat the Michigan soil will be put in the ground starting next week.

Here, EPA hasn't identified any viable PRPs, and will pay the estimated $1.3 million remedy for treatment of 2,000 cubic yards of soil or $1.7 million if 3,000 cubic yards must be treated.

The vitrification process converts contaminated soil into a chemically inert, stable glass and crystalline mass.

The soil is melted by electrical energy, then allowed to solidify in place. Organics are destroyed and metals immobilized in the glass-like material.

EPA will start preparing the Parsons site next week by excavating three contaminated areas and placing 2,000 to 3,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil into a large treatment pit in which the electrodes will be buried through the winter until treatment is applied.

In the melt, chlorinated pesticides will be destroyed and volatile gases will be trapped under a hood that covers the melt area. The trapped gases pass through a scrubber and carbon treatment unit.

Parsons Chemical Works mixed, manufactured and packaged pesticides, herbicides, solvents and mercury-based compounds. Dieldrin, chlordane, DDT, arsenic and mercury contaminate the soil.

EPA targeted the Parsons site for dioxin screening in 1984.

Samples showed low concentrations of 2,3,7, 8-tetra-chlorodibenzo-p dioxin in sediments and at a drain outfall of a nearby creek. Both areas are fenced.

Parsons Chemical Works began operations in 1945 and in 1979 sold the plant to ETM, which makes fiberglass and plastic products at the site.

Contact: Deborah Hankins, GE project manager, 415-986-2354; Len Zintak, EPA remedial project manager at Parsons site, 312-886-4246.

# Stringfellow cleanup to cost $100 million...(From page 1)

The group has long pushed for more extensive treatment than the interim or containment remedies of limited pumping and a cap on the site taken in earlier measures.

The $100 million pump-and-treat remedy is EPA's fourth operable unit and third effort to extract the contamination that has extended 12,000 feet from the 17-acre site. The plume extends beneath the residential area of Glen Avon next to the site. A number of extraction wells will be sunk in the neighborhood. If left unabated, the plume could extend to the Chino Basin aquifer, a drinking water source for more than 500,000 people.

A treatment plant already built on the site will be cranked up to full capacity. From there, the ground water will be pumped through an industrial sewer line to a public sewage treatment plant for disposal.

But after negotiations with PRPs, the design phase of the remedy is expected to take five years. The California Health Services Dept. has had the lead in overseeing the cleanup. But EPA is questioning whether that will continue because the health department is a PRP as well. The state picked the disposal area for industrial wastes, issued permits and may have contributed some wastes.

The Stringfellow site in Riverside County was used for 34 million gallons of liquid industrial waste dumping until 1972. Spent acids, caustics, solvents, pesticide byproducts, and metals were put into unlined pits.

The waste ponds were removed in the first remedy in 1983. Interim ground water pumping was begun the following year in the mid-canyon and pond area to keep the plume from spreading. The pumping system was expanded in a third ROD in 1988 to include the lower canyon and to

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